

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9-12 are amended.

I. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 9-10, and 12, and claims 2-8 by dependency, for reciting "solely when the area includes a pixel located diagonal to the target pixel, shifting the target pixel by at least one sub-pixel" The Office Action argues that a target pixel will always have one or more pixels diagonal to it. By this Amendment, the claims are amended to recite "whether a character pixel is located diagonal" Because there is support for identification of when a character pixel is diagonal from a target character pixel, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claim 11 for reciting "shifts the subpixels of the target pixel in the first direction by at least one subpixel distance," and alleges there is no support for the recited "at least." Support for horizontally shifting more than one subpixel is given in paragraph [0012] and original claim 2 which recites horizontal shifting by a predetermined number of subpixels. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 9-10 and 12 for reciting "a pixel" which is diagonal to a target pixel. By this Amendment, the claims are amended to recite "a character pixel is located diagonal ..." as recited above. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,542,161 to Koyama et al. (Koyama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,914,615 to Okada et al. (Okada) and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0020729 to Toji et al. (Toji).

Koyama discloses a character display apparatus in which character lines can be smoothed by associating each dot of a character to be displayed with a subpixel and adjusting the intensity of adjoining subpixels to control the perceived color of the dot (col. 9, line 64 to col. 10, line 19). However, Koyama does not make use of bitmap fonts. Instead, Koyama uses outline fonts. For example, Koyama discloses various straight lines, arcs, spline curves, and combinations of these which are used to construct the outline of characters (col. 14, line 57 to col. 15, line 37), which Koyama refers to as "skeleton data" (summary, claims). Thus, Koyama does not disclose shifting bitmap data but achieves best results by using character skeletons and ideal outlines and adjusting the appropriate subpixel levels (Col. 16, lines 8-12, Figs. 63-64).

Thus, Koyama fails to disclose "a data acquiring device that acquires font data of bitmap fonts" as recited.

Further, however, by this Amendment, the claims are amended to recite that the processes are performed separately on each pixel. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, at step S3 of Fig. 2. In contrast, Koyama subjects the lines, arcs, spline curves, and so on to calculations to determine how subpixels are to be allotted. The device of Koyama does not analyze the data to identify diagonally located pixels. Koyama does not need to analyze the data in this manner because the outlines of the characters are generated as a result of the calculations.

Okada and Toji do not cure these deficiencies.

For the forgoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jonathan H. Backenstose
Registration No. 47,399

JAO:JHB/gck

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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